



Violence plagued all levels of American politics long before the attempt on Trump's life

By JOHN HANNA, CAROLYN THOMPSON, GEOFF MULVIHILL and JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Long before a would-be assassin shot and wounded former President Donald Trump, the fuse of political violence had been burning across America.

Members of Congress have been shot. One lawmaker's staffers in Virginia were attacked with a baseball bat. In Louisville, a bullet grazed the mayor's sweater after someone stormed into his campaign office. Someone put a tracking device on the Reno mayor's car. Officials in South Carolina received death threats over a solar panel plant. And outside Buffalo, a man threw a dummy pipe bomb through the window of a county clerk candidate's home while her family slept — with a message reading: "If you don't drop out of this race, the next pipe bomb will be real."

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Former Arizona Rep. Gabby Giffords talks during a vigil remembering the 25th anniversary of the Columbine High School mass shooting, April 19, 2024, in Denver.

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Continued from Front

"There are people who've come to me and said, 'I contemplated running for my town office, and I could never imagine my family going through what you did, so I chose not to,'" said Melissa Hartman, who was targeted in the pipe bomb episode and ran for county clerk after serving as town supervisor in Eden.

The attempt on Trump's life was the latest and most stunning example of political violence and harassment playing out regularly across America, shaking the foundations of democracy and causing grave concern the atmosphere will worsen as Election Day nears. Trump and President Joe Biden each called for unity after the shooting, with the president telling the nation, "We can't allow violence to be normalized."

Intense partisanship, punctuated by violence, has long been a part of American politics. In 1798, congressmen from opposing parties brawled in the U.S. House chamber, beating each other with a cane and fireplace tongs. Four presidents have been killed by assassins, with other presidents and candidates wounded or targeted. Yet the attack on Trump evoked memories of more recent incidents. Democratic U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords was wounded in a 2011 shooting outside an Arizona grocery store. Republican U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, now House majority leader, was shot in 2017 while practicing for a charity baseball game. Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan was the target of a foiled kidnapping plot uncovered in 2020.



In this image taken from San Francisco Police Department body camera video, the husband of former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Paul Pelosi, right, fights for control of a hammer with his assailant, David DePape, during a brutal attack in the couple's San Francisco home on Oct. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

Even after the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol shocked the world, political violence continued.

A man with a hammer bludgeoned the husband of then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, in their San Francisco home in 2022. Last year, a man with a history of mental illness went to the Fairfax, Virginia, district office of Democratic U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, looking to kill him with a baseball bat. Connolly wasn't there, so the man attacked two staffers. And there are dozens of stories from far lesser-known political officials like Hartman. She lost her county clerk race and hasn't sought elective office since in her town of 7,700, home to the only factory making metal kazoos in North America. The man who threw the dummy pipe bomb pleaded guilty. Hartman said he was paid to do it by a neighbor, and she remains skittish two years later when approached in public. In York County, South Carolina, a booming suburb of

Charlotte, North Carolina, County Council Chairwoman Christi Cox said that after the attempt on Trump, she felt compelled to speak about a letter she recently received. She'd sent her three kids to get the mail and read it while they were nearby — a threat to kill her unless she stopped a solar panel manufacturer from building a \$150 million plant receiving council-approved incentives. Cox is a Republican; an additional letter threatening the council's only Democrat came to county offices.

"Our country is in a very dangerous and dark place right now, and I feel like some of that is spilling over to our community," she said at the council's Monday night meeting. "The level of anger, hate, lies, accusations, fear-mongering — it is rampant." In Reno, Nevada, a far-right movement has targeted local politicians. Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve doesn't know whether someone in that movement had the tracking device put on her vehicle,

and she tries to avoid going to public places alone.

"I think people really forget that we're human beings," she said.

In Louisville, Kentucky, in 2022, a man burst into Mayor Craig Greenberg's campaign headquarters, firing shots. A bullet grazed his sweater. Staffers were unharmed. "Absolutely no good came from Saturday's heinous act," Greenberg said Monday. "But let's hope it's finally the wake-up call." "I hope this is a moment that all of us on all sides of the political spectrum can say we all were saved by that bullet missing President Trump," Moss said.

The attack came a day after governors at a National Governors Association meeting in Salt Lake City committed to collaborating on public service announcements and other campaigns to show voters they can get along with political rivals.

"We can disagree without hating each other," said outgoing chairman Republican

Spencer Cox, of Utah.

Cooling the political climate will require both a change in messaging at the top and a willingness of rank-and-file voters to move closer to those who disagree with them, said Austin Doctor, of the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center.

"It takes a lot of work and consistent commitment to the values of democracy," Doctor said. "The question that we have to continue to ask is: How do we veer out of this potential spiral?"

In Oklahoma, Pat McFerron, a pollster and GOP consultant, said closed party primaries in safe districts encourage candidates to use extreme rhetoric. It would be toned down, he argued, in a single open primary.

"Most of the candidates I know, in their heart of hearts are people who want to make a difference who prefer an environment that wants consensus," McFerron said. "If you're going to be successful, you have to play the game that's in front of you." Some Republicans — including vice presidential nominee J.D. Vance — quickly blamed Biden and fellow Democrats for portraying Trump as a threat to democracy. On Facebook, Alabama's GOP lieutenant governor, Will Ainsworth, held "the radical left" responsible and said its agenda attacks Christianity and is "evil incarnate."

Social media has helped fuel threats. In a 2021 survey of 112 public officials, the National League of Cities found the overwhelming majority — about 4 in 5 — experienced harassment, threats or violence. Most said it happened through social media; more than half said it also occurred at public meetings. □

An order blocking a rule to help LGBTQ+ kids applies to hundreds of schools. Some want to block more

By JOHN HANNA
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A federal judge's order blocking a Biden administration rule for protecting LGBTQ+ students from discrimination applies to hundreds of schools and colleges across the U.S., and a group challenging it hopes to extend it further to many major American cities.

U.S. District Judge John Broomes' decision touched off a new legal dispute between the Biden administration and critics of the rule, over how broadly the order should apply. Broomes, who was appointed to the bench by then-President Donald Trump, blocked enforcement of the rule in Kansas, where he's based, as well as in Alaska, Utah and Wyoming. In addition, he blocked it for any K-12 school or college in the U.S. attended by children of members of three groups backing Republican efforts nationwide to roll back LGBTQ+ rights.

Most Republican state attorneys general have sued to challenge the rule, which is set to take effect in August under the 1972 Title IX civil rights law that bars sex discrimination in education.

Broomes and other judges have blocked the rule's enforcement in 15 states so far while legal cases move forward.

Broomes directed the groups challenging the rule in the Kansas case Moms for Liberty, Young America's Foundation and Female Athletes United to provide a list of schools and colleges where enforcement would be blocked. On Monday, the groups submitted a list of more than 400 K-12 schools and nearly 700 colleges in at least 47 states and the District of Columbia. About 78% of the K-12 schools and many of the colleges are in states not covered by any judge's ruling.

But in a filing last week, attorneys for Moms for Liberty called compiling a list



John Broomes, nominated to be United States District Judge for the district of Kansas, testifies during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on nominations on Capitol Hill in Washington, Nov. 15, 2017.

Associated Press

of schools for its 130,000 members "an impossible task" and asked Broomes to block the rule in any county where a group member lives. Co-founder Tiffany Justice said in a court filing that the group doesn't ask members to list their children's schools to protect their privacy.

"Individual members of Moms for Liberty are regularly subject to threats, both general and specific," Justice said in her statement. In seeking a broader order from Broomes, Moms for Liberty included a list of more than 800 counties where members live, from every state except Vermont and the District of Columbia.

Should Broomes approve the group's request, the rule would be blocked in Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia, San Francisco and New York City, except for the Bronx.

Biden administration attorneys said the request would apply to dozens of schools without children of Moms for Liberty members for every school with such students.

"Thus, granting relief at the county level instead of the school level could increase the scope of the injunction by perhaps a hundred-

fold," the attorneys said in a court filing.

Broomes called the rule arbitrary and said it exceeded the authority granted to federal officials by Title IX. He also concluded that it violated the free speech rights and religious freedom of parents and students who reject transgender students' gender identities.

The Biden administration has appealed Broomes' ruling to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver.

LGBTQ+ youth, their parents, health care providers and others say restrictions on transgender youth harms their mental health. □

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Minnesota's ban on gun carry permits for young adults is unconstitutional, appeals court rules

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI**
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota's law that bans people ages 18 to 20 from getting permits to carry guns in public is unconstitutional, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday, affirming a lower court decision that concluded the Second Amendment guarantees the rights of young adults to bear arms for self-defense.

"Minnesota has not met its burden to proffer sufficient evidence to rebut the presumption that 18 to 20-year-olds seeking to carry handguns in public for self defense are protected by the right to keep and bear arms," the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled. The three-judge panel cited a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that expanded gun rights in 2022 and a major decision last month that upheld a federal gun control law that is intended to protect victims of domestic violence.



A Glock handgun is holstered on the side of Kristopher Kranz of Bloomington, Minn., as he listens during public testimony on Aug. 20, 2013, in St. Paul, Minn.

U.S. District Judge Katherine Menendez reluctantly struck down the Minnesota law in March of 2023 but granted the state's emergency motion for a stay, keeping the ban in place

until the state's appeal could be resolved. Her ruling was an example of how the 2022 Supreme Court case, known as the Bruen decision, upended gun laws nationwide, dividing

courts and sowing confusion over what restrictions can remain in force. The Bruen decision, which was the conservative-led high court's biggest gun ruling in more than a decade,

Associated Press

held that Americans have a right to carry firearms in public for self-defense.

And it established a new test for evaluating challenges to gun restrictions, saying courts must now ask whether restrictions are consistent with the country's "historical tradition of firearm regulation."

Attorney General Keith Ellison, whose office represented the state in the case, said he was "extremely disappointed" in the ruling. "This epidemic of gun violence will continue unabated unless we do something about it," Ellison said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, the Supreme Court's Bruen ruling made that far more difficult by opening the floodgates to litigation from gun advocacy groups looking to undo reasonable safety legislation..

The people of Minnesota want and deserve solutions that reduce shootings and improve public safety, and today's ruling only makes that more difficult."□

Albert the alligator's owner sues New York state agency in effort to be reunited with seized pet

By **CAROLYN THOMPSON**
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — An upstate New York man whose 750-pound alligator was seized is suing the state Department of Environmental Conservation in an effort to get him back, saying the agency was wrong not to renew a license for the pet he looked after for more than 30 years.

Conservation officers entered Tony Cavallaro's home in the Buffalo suburb of Hamburg in March, sedated the 11-foot alligator named Albert, taped his mouth shut and drove off with him, saying Cavallaro's license to keep the reptile expired in 2021 and hadn't been renewed. In his lawsuit filed with the state Supreme Court, Ca-

vallaro says the agency's denial of his license wasn't "factually based," his attorney, Peter Kooshoian, said Tuesday.

"We're hoping that he will get his license to have the animal reinstated, and from there we'd like to either negotiate or litigate to have the animal brought back to Mr. Cavallaro because we feel that he should have had a valid license at the time, as he'd had for the last 30 years," Kooshoian said.

The DEC does not comment on pending litigation, a spokesman said via email when asked for a response to the claims. It previously said Albert's enclosure didn't sufficiently ensure that he would not come into contact with people, and that the alligator was afflicted by "blindness in both eyes and spinal com-

plications" conditions Cavallaro disputes.

Officers' seizure of the alligator, caught on video, and Cavallaro's videos and photos of him petting and kissing Albert in the custom indoor pool he built led to an outpouring of support for the duo. "Bring Albert Home" signs still dot some neighborhood lawns and more than 4,500 followers keep up with Cavallaro's efforts on Facebook.

"I'm hoping we get this thing resolved. That's all I can do," Cavallaro said of the decision to sue. "It's overwhelming me. ... It's ruined my whole year, destroyed it."

Cavallaro bought the American alligator at an Ohio reptile show in 1990 when Albert was two months old. He considers him an emotional support animal and "gentle giant."

The license became an issue following a change in regulations for possessing dangerous animals adopted by the DEC in 2020. After Cavallaro's license expired in 2021, the agency said he failed to bring the holding area into compliance with the updated standards to ensure the alligator did not pose a danger to the public.

Cavallaro said the DEC failed to follow its own licensing requirements governing people who already owned a wild animal when the new regulations took effect.

Albert was taken to Gator Country, a Beaumont, Texas, rescue facility where visitors can interact with the alligators and other reptiles. "You can interact with them in all different ways. It's like a kick right in my teeth," Cavallaro said.□



This undated photo, provided by Tony Cavallaro, shows his 750-pound alligator, Albert, in Cavallaro's personal enclosure, in Hamburg, NY.

Associated Press

French president accepts prime minister's resignation but keeps him as head of caretaker government

By SYLVIE CORBET and
BARBARA SURK

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron accepted the prime minister's resignation Tuesday but kept him on as head of a caretaker government, as France prepares to host the Paris Olympics at the end of the month.

The president's office said in a statement that Macron "accepted" the resignation of Prime Minister Gabriel Attal and other ministers on Tuesday. Attal and other government members are "to handle current affairs until a new government is being appointed," the statement said.

There is no firm timeline for when Macron must name a new prime minister, following parliamentary elections this month that left the National Assembly with no dominant political bloc in power for the first time in France's modern Republic. The caretaker government led by Attal will focus only on handling day-to-day affairs.

"For this period to end as quickly as possible, it is up to all Republican forces to work together" around



French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal leaves the weekly cabinet meeting, Tuesday, July 16, 2024 in Paris.

Associated Press

"projects and actions that serve the French people," the president's statement said.

The opening session of the National Assembly, France's powerful lower house of parliament, is scheduled for Thursday.

Normally, members of government are barred from being lawmakers, but Tuesday's move allows Attal to take up his seat as a law-

maker and lead the group of Macron's centrist allies in the National Assembly. It also insulates him from a no-confidence vote, because he already has resigned and a caretaker government cannot be subject to such a vote.

France has been on the brink of government paralysis since elections for the National Assembly earlier this month resulted in a split

among three major political groupings: the New Popular Front leftist coalition, Macron's centrist allies and the far-right National Rally of Marine Le Pen.

The New Popular Front won the most seats but fell well short of the outright majority needed to govern on its own.

The leftist coalition's three main parties, the hard-left France Unbowed, the So-

cialists and the Greens, have urged the president to turn to them to form the new government, yet their internal talks have turned into a harsh dispute over whom to choose as prime minister.

France Unbowed suspended the talks on Monday, accusing the Socialists of sabotaging candidacies they have put forward to replace Attal.

Socialist Party leader Olivier Faure said Tuesday the leftist coalition needs "to think, talk and resume discussions" if it wants to meet "the expectation of the public" and fulfill its promise that it "is ready to govern." Faure acknowledged that lengthy discussions, public bickering and occasional angry verbal exchanges among the coalition's party leaders are "not a good look." But "the stakes are so high that it's not unusual for us to talk for a long time and that sometimes, we yell," Faure said on France Inter radio.

National Rally vice president Sebastien Chenu said the quarreling on the left is a sign that the New Popular Front "is not ready to govern." □

Israeli military says it will begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men. That could rattle the government

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military on Tuesday said it would begin sending draft notices to Jewish ultra-Orthodox men next week a step that could destabilize Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

The announcement followed a landmark Supreme Court order for young religious men to begin enlisting for military service. Under long-standing political arrangements, ultra-Orthodox men had been exempt from the draft, which is compulsory for most Jewish men.

The exemptions created resentment among the general public in Israel, especially after more than nine months of war against Hamas militants in Gaza. The army summons is the beginning of a months-long enlistment process that could be difficult to enforce if there is large-scale refusal to comply. The army did not say when it expects ultra-Orthodox men to begin serving or how many it expects to enlist.

The court ruled that the system of exemptions, which allow religious men to study in Jewish seminaries while others are forced to serve in the army, was discriminatory. Ultra-Orthodox leaders say religious study is equally important for the country's future and that their generations-old way of life will be threatened if their followers serve in the army.

Netanyahu's government relies on the support of ultra-Orthodox parties that oppose changes to the system. Religious leaders have not said what steps they will take. If they leave the ruling coalition, the government would likely topple and the country would be plunged into early elections two years ahead of schedule. □



Ultra-Orthodox Jewish youth block a road to protest military recruitment in Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv, Israel, Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Associated Press

More Kenyan police arrive in Haiti with UN-backed mission to fight violent gangs

By **EVENS SANON** and **DÁNICA COTO**

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Another 200 police officers from Kenya arrived Tuesday in Haiti for a U.N.-backed mission led by the East African country to battle violent gangs that have taken over parts of the troubled Caribbean country.

The officers arrived nearly a month after the first contingent of 200 landed in the capital of Port-au-Prince, where gangs control at least 80% of the city.

Last week the United Nations Security Council strongly condemned “the extreme levels of armed violence” in Haiti that are undermining security in the country and the region.

Authorities have declined to provide details on the Kenyans’ assignments, citing security concerns. Associated Press journalists have seen them on patrol in areas near the main international airport, which reopened in May after a surge in gang violence forced it to close for nearly



Kenyan police that are part of a UN-backed multinational force welcome more Kenyan police after their plane landed at Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

three months.

“We are happy to work side-by-side with the Kenyans,” Normil Rameau, the new chief of Haiti’s National Police, said shortly after they arrived. “In the name of the government, we give them a warm welcome.”

More Kenyans are expected to arrive in coming

weeks and months and will be joined by police and soldiers from the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Chad and Jamaica for a total of 2,500 personnel. They will be deployed in phases at a cost of some \$600 million a year, according to the U.N. Security Council.

The Kenyan-led mission is

meant to bolster Haiti’s National Police, which remains understaffed and underfunded, with only about 10,000 officers active at a time in a country of more than 11 million people.

The mission also aims to quell gangs accused of killing more than 4,450 people last year and injuring another 1,668, according to

the U.N., more than double compared with the previous year.

More than 1,500 people were killed or injured in the first three months of this year.

While some Haitians have welcomed the Kenyans’ arrival, others remain wary. “The fear of the Haitians is that this mission, as has occurred in the past ... will only achieve a temporary reduction in violence,” said Diego Da Rin, with the International Crisis Group, who was recently in Haiti.

Da Rin noted that certain politicians and business owners have long been tied to gangs, and warned the crisis will continue “as long as the problems of impunity and corruption are not addressed.”

Another concern is that Kenyan police have faced years of allegations of abuses in their country, including extrajudicial killings. Their behavior drew renewed scrutiny when they opened fire on protesters in recent weeks amid ongoing turmoil that has killed dozens of people. □

Associated Press

EU-backed court convicts former Kosovo Liberation Army fighter of murder and abuse during 1999 war

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Judges at a European Union-backed court convicted a former Kosovo Liberation Army fighter Tuesday with involvement in the murder of one person and the illegal detention and torture of nearly 20 more during his country’s war for independence from Serbia in 1999.

Pjetër Shala, also known by the nickname “Wolf,” was found guilty of three war crimes murder, torture and arbitrary detention by the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, a court that is part of the Kosovo legal system but based in the Netherlands. He was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

“The panel finds beyond reasonable doubt that Mr.

Shala is guilty,” of murder, torture and arbitrary detention, Presiding Judge Mappie Veldt-Foglia said. Shala was acquitted of a charge of cruel treatment because

the trial panel said the mistreatment was the same as that covered in the torture charge.

At his trial that opened in February last year, Shala in-

sisted he was innocent and pleaded not guilty to all four charges.

Veldt-Foglia said Shala was involved in the mistreatment of several ethnic Albanian Kosovars who were perceived as spies or collaborators with Serb forces in May and June 1999. The victims were detained and abused at a makeshift detention center at a metal factory in Kukës, northern Albania.

“The murder victim died while still in detention ... as a result of being shot, and subsequently being denied appropriate medical treatment, and the other detainees were forced to witness his terrible agony before he died,” the judge said.

Veldt-Foglia said the judges received compelling

eyewitness accounts of the abuse despite the trial being held against “a backdrop of a persistent climate of witness intimidation.”

Specialist Prosecutor Kimberly West, who leads the office that indicted Shala, welcomed the verdicts.

“Achieving accountability for serious crimes including against those, such as Mr. Shala, who had previously avoided the jurisdiction of Kosovo’s courts for several years is an important step for the rule of law,” West said in a statement.

Most of the people who died in the 1998-1999 war in Kosovo were ethnic Albanians. A 78-day NATO air campaign against Serbian troops ended the fighting, but tensions between Kosovo and Serbia remain tense. □



Former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) member Pjetër Shala attends his trial as judges at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers will hand down a judgment in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday, July 16 2024.

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Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral

reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take

concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! □





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Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the

Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut

and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with



many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □



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Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of

meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christ-



mas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (ginger-bread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty



delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

Newly weds Michael and Lindsey celebrating their honeymoon in the tropical paradise of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today had the pleasure to hear last week that one of Aruba's most doting visitors has once again visited us for their honeymoon.

Michael Ciurleo and Lindsey Shapiro recently got married in NY on June 7th. According to what we heard, Aruba is a special place for the both of them because they got engaged here and currently are celebrating their honeymoon. In the future they look forward to many Aruba visits to celebrate their love. Congratulations Michael and Lindsey, we wish an abundance of love in this next chapter of your lives! □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Aruban agro history

Episode CCLXII - 262

Etnia Nativa is a unique native gem where education is combined with entertainment, sharing interactive experiences with an exclusive few. An unparalleled private opportunity to tour a beautiful property made only with reused materials from the owner, an unrivaled columnist and cultural expert on the island, book your visit and dive deep into the navel of Aruba. From that educational perspective, in this new episode, it shares a little about Aruban agro history.

In times when our farmers tried certain crops without success, such as tobacco, cotton, and even cashew nuts, the cultivation of peanuts exported to Curaçao became an important industry favored by the soil and the natives' knowledge, long positioning Aruba as "the island of peanuts." This particular crop gave a privileged way of life, especially in Noord, near Cero Cristal, Hooiberg, and the Urataca area. During the 19th century, with the increase in population and periods of regular rainfall, the cultivation of sorghum also grew positively.

Sorghum, locally known as "maishi rabo," is a relative of maize or Native American corn, a grass family that became very common as a cereal. In the vegetative state, some grasses, such as sugar cane or maize, resemble sorghum so much that an untrained eye may find it very difficult to distinguish among them. Adding to this confusion was the fact that in the English Caribbean, corn was called large milho and sorghum small milho, just like in Papiamentu we call corn "maishi grandi," or big corn, and sorghum "maishi rabo," or tail corn. However, they belong to widely different subspecies.

The cultivation of sorghum became traditional. It was a work that was carried out on two plots: a portion of rich clay soil and a scarce plot of sand. If the abundance of rain resulted in a poor harvest from the rich soil, the sandy soil compensated for this loss, and vice versa.

Different grades of imported sorghum were experimented with, such as Jerusalem corn, yellow mellow corn, etc. In the long run, a type of sorghum, originally from China, substituted the native Aruban maize in many "cunucos" since maize needed more rain and its care demanded more interventions. Sorghum, locally known as maishi rabo or "maishi di siete" (corn



of seven), produced the best results. It is called seven for the seven weeks it took to harvest' after it had been planted.

The priests were the distributors of the seeds. The crops were exposed to dangers such as drought, the seed dying as it could not develop due to a lack of rain, or being devoured by worms or ants. When the plant has reached a certain height, there is a possibility that, due to prolonged drought or excess humidity, there is a liquid inside. This pest, called "maba", damages the plant. As this liquid arises from a long drought or too much humidity, it is washed from the plant by heavy rains, the sun, and the strong wind.

Growing methods were more advanced in Aruba than elsewhere, and in most cases, two crops could be

obtained. In addition to corn, beans and squash were also grown, a very productive crop that was mainly attributed to Native American heritage and traditions. Both corn and bean crops were used for food, while peanut crops were used to buy clothes, shoes, and even pay debts.

The agricultural area, or cunucu, was divided into plots suitable for planting different species, thinking about which was the best area to plant corn. Meanwhile, the lowest lot takes good water and should be planted with peanuts; the corner was ready to receive the beans, etc. However, one should not have an overly optimistic view of Aruban agriculture. There were no real plantations, except for Fontein.

If you liked native stories and are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. It has been a trend setter since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper continues to share its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through learning real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls. Book your visit: Whats App +297 592 2702 etniana03@gmail.com



The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

(Oranjestad)—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha
Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudaweche, who was an epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudaweche. Upon telling Kudaweche that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudaweche was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree,

they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudaweche, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudaweche, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the



father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

Meet our Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe

(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a



love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician. In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from August 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several paintings using his unique style. In 1939, he



participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs). Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press



with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles. Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechnician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curaçao, Venezuela and the Netherlands. Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the

most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976. Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Valiant person
- 5 Wine holder
- 11 Fans' favorite
- 12 Slow tempo
- 13 Enjoy a novel
- 14 Watering hole
- 15 Complete
- 16 Cartoon skunk — Le Pew
- 17 Body pump
- 19 Very popular
- 22 Whale feature
- 24 Glowed
- 26 See the sights
- 27 Poker payment
- 28 Fiery crime
- 30 River through Alaska
- 31 Flower visitor
- 32 Boot-shaped nation
- 34 Soap residue
- 35 Cruise in the movies
- 38 Watering hole

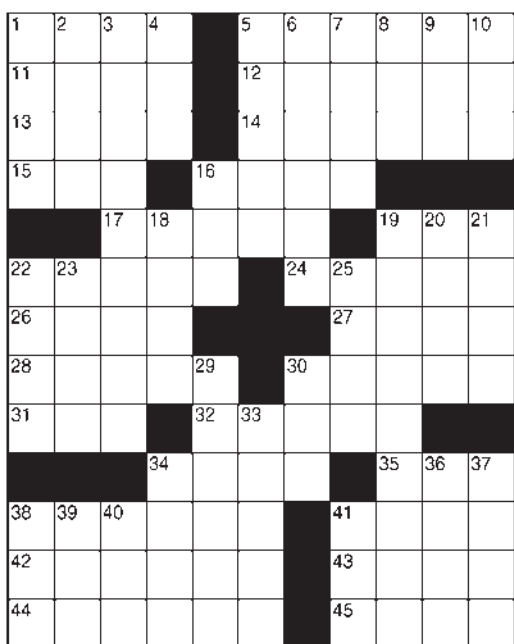
- 41 Place to put in
- 42 Baltimore player
- 43 Wallet bills
- 44 Improved
- 45 Gumbo veggie



Yesterday's answer

DOWN

- 1 Employ
- 2 Perfect place
- 3 Watering hole
- 4 Antique
- 5 Supply food for
- 6 Conforms
- 7 Dance party
- 8 Long time
- 9 Tall tree
- 10 Long time
- 16 Con-trived
- 18 Franc's replacement
- 19 Watering hole
- 20 Aware of
- 21 Freshman, usually
- 22 Rough guess
- 23 Skin opening
- 25 Transport
- 29 Kidman of film
- 30 Orange tuber
- 33 Radio part
- 34 Chimney grime
- 36 Finished
- 37 Butte's kin
- 38 Cry loudly
- 39 Verb for you
- 40 Set ablaze
- 41 Pigeon sound



A-24

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-24

CRYPTOQUOTE

BPLS IRPL TEZY BR BAY XPS,

ESC BAY XAECRFXTEDD

MYAKSC IRP. — PSOSRFS

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A GOOD PIECE OF ART SHOULD MAKE A REVOLUTION INSIDE YOU. — SHOHREH AGHDASHLOO

Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Amazon Prime Day deals are almost here. Should you take advantage of them?

BY HALELUYA HADERO AND CORA LEWIS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's summertime, and the bargains seem easy at a time when many consumer prices are high. July sales events have become a seasonal revenue driver for the retail industry since Amazon launched its first Prime Day back in 2015. While consumers may be enticed by the advertised can't-miss savings on some products, personal finance experts say shoppers should be careful not to fall for potentially misleading marketing or give in to impulse buys. Amazon has drummed up expectations in recent weeks for its 10th Prime Day event, which will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday and is open only to customers who pay \$14.99 per month, or \$139 per year, to receive free shipping and other perks as Prime members.

Rival retailers tried in the past to capture some of the Prime Day excitement by offering their own discounts during the two-day event. This year, Walmart, Target, Kohl's, and newcomers TikTok Shop and Temu launched summer promotions ahead of Amazon, hoping to siphon off some of the e-commerce giant's savings-hungry shoppers. Meanwhile, Macy's will be rolling out what it calls its "best summer deals" during an eight-day discount event that begins on Tuesday.

Why are retailers offering so many summer discounts?

July sales help retailers attract customers who are looking to get a head start on back-to-school shopping, which is the industry's second-most important shopping season behind the winter holiday period. The markdowns also pull in some discretionary spending from shoppers who've had their eyes on gadgets, household products and seasonal items, such as a bikini or a new summer dress. Discounts can help retailers combat "a summer lull in retail spending" as consumers



An Amazon worker delivers packages in Los Angeles on Oct. 1, 2020.

Associated Press

shift their spending to summer vacations and services, like going out to eat at restaurants, according to John Mercer, the head of global research at Coresight Research.

"It drives a bit of excitement in that mid-year period," when retailers may otherwise struggle to generate more revenue, Mercer said. Companies also have relied on discounts to drive consumer spending during the recent period of inflation and high interest rates, he said.

Amazon doesn't disclose how much revenue it pulls in from Prime Day, but it has given some indications of its success. The company said last year's event resulted in the "single largest sales day" in the company's history, with customers purchasing more than 375 million items.

An estimate from market research firm Emarketer indicated Amazon's global sales on Prime Day went up to \$12.5 billion in 2023. The firm forecasts sales to jump roughly 7% this year.

Are the prices on offer really deals or something else?

It depends on who you ask. Retailers hype up their promotions to pull people in. But the New York Times-owned product review website Wirecutter published an article this month saying most of Amazon's early deals this

year so far "stink."

Santa Clara University business professor Kirthi Kalyanam, who is writing a book about Amazon, said Prime Day offers have been good, historically. That's because the company was able to source discounts from well-known brands such as Apple and to incentivize third-party sellers to lower their prices by promising to feature them prominently on the Amazon website, according to Kalyanam.

But Prime Day discounts may matter less these days because customers are getting accustomed to the ultra-cheap products sold by Amazon competitors Shein and Temu, which were both founded in China. "Many of (the) deals may not be as competitive compared to Temu and Shein," Kalyanam said.

At the same time, he noted rival retailers will most likely be looking at Amazon's prices and trying to match them overnight. Last week, he said he saw Best Buy discount two products after Amazon revealed some of its early deals.

Consumer data company Numerator reported that a majority of the roughly 5,000 Prime Day shoppers it surveyed after last year's event saw product discounts of up to 40%. Survey respondents said they saw a quarter of items selling at

a discount of 60% or more. Some shopping experts have said that some past Prime discounts were not as big as they appeared.

What are some bargain-hunting and budgeting tips?

If you're watching your budget, personal finance experts say you should exercise caution before you buy.

"Avoid the false sense of urgency of manufactured holidays," advises Mark Elliot, chief customer officer at financial services company LendingClub. "The idea that 'The more you spend, the more you save' that's just definitionally not true." Dan Egan, a vice president at financial advising and investment company Betterment, says shoppers should make a list of what they need before the sales begin to be intentional about purchases. He also encourages consumers to avoid shopping late at night or out of boredom. "Once you have a list, it's less likely you'll get distracted by things you don't need," Egan said. "If that list contains almost nothing, I would say to delete the (retailers') apps off your phone for the next week or two. Or you're going to get lots of notifications."

Any shopper already carrying a credit card balance should keep in mind that

the interest paid on that balance could end up cancelling out any perceived savings from a summer sale purchase, he added.

"A deal is not a deal if you have to pay interest on it," Egan said. While it may make sense for shoppers to try out free or temporary memberships to qualify for the best deals during the summer sales, those programs typically charge a fee to the customer's credit card on file after a short period of time, noted Erin Witte, the Consumer Federation of America's director of consumer protection.

"Set a calendar reminder to cancel if you don't want to go through with that subscription," Witte said. "Think about it right at the beginning. And remember that these companies design this product to make it easy to sign up, but more difficult to cancel."

Consumer Reports also offers a few tips: Download Amazon's app, sign-up for invite-only deals available for a select group of shoppers, and join the waitlist on limited-time offers that are already sold out.

Don't forget to shop around. Filling up an online Amazon cart is tempting for Prime members since they are paying for access to Prime Day deals. But it's always a smart idea to compare prices across multiple websites before completing a purchase.

Unlike Prime Day offers, Walmart's discount event this month was open to everyone. However, the company sweetened the deal for its Walmart+ members by offering them early access.

Target only offered discounts to shoppers enrolled in its Target Circle loyalty program and used the weeklong event to promote a new membership program that aims to rejuvenate sales and traffic.

TikTok Shop, the e-commerce arm of the popular video-sharing app, opened its summer sales event to everyone. The event started on July 9 and runs until Wednesday. □

Olympic tennis players return to the red clay of Paris' Roland Garros after Wimbledon's grass

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — The competition surface doesn't change for most Olympic sports. A pool's a pool. A track's a track. A wrestling mat's a mat. And so on. Tennis? That's a whole other story, with tournaments contested on clay, hard or grass courts and now there's a shift for the Paris Games.

For the first time in more than 30 years, the tennis competition at an Olympics will be held on red clay, which means players who recently made the adjustment from the dirt at the French Open in early June to grass at Wimbledon in early July will need to reverse course again in short order.

The "terre battue" at Roland Garros used for the French Open hosts Olympic matches starting on July 27 two weeks after Wimbledon wrapped up with singles titles for Barbora Krejčíková of the Czech Republic and Carlos Al-



Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a shot against Germany's Alexander Zverev during their first-round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, May 27, 2024. Associated Press

caraz of Spain and the transition back to that site is more concerning to some athletes than others.

"That'll definitely be interesting. But everyone's kind of doing it. We'll all be in the same boat," said Jes-

sica Pegula, an American ranked in the top 10 who is expected to play singles, women's doubles with U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff and perhaps mixed doubles, too. "I usually don't struggle too much

with switching. And I like how the courts play there. It might be easier than some other places we play on clay. When the weather is warm in Paris, it plays pretty true. There's a good speed. There's not a lot to

get used to."

For her, maybe.

"It's going to be the first time for me, going from grass to clay," said Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan, the 2022 Wimbledon champion and a semifinalist there this month. "It's not easy. Physically, it's not easy, (or) mentally."

One additional factor on some players' minds: There will be another brief turnaround after the Olympics to prepare for the move to the hard courts ahead of the U.S. Open, which starts in late August. That's less than a month after the medals are awarded in France.

"It's awful for the schedule," said Taylor Fritz, Pegula's teammate for the United States and someone who just reached the quarterfinals at the All England Club. "It makes absolutely no sense. It screws everything up, for sure."

Tennis becomes a different sport, in some key ways, depending on where it's being played. □

Belgian sprinter Philipsen completes hat trick of stage wins at Tour, Girmay falls near finish

NIMES, France (AP) — Jasper Philipsen completed a hat trick of stage wins at this year's Tour de France after Biniam Girmay's main rival for the best sprinter's green jersey crashed near the finish on Tuesday.

There was no major change in the general classification with two-time champion Tadej Pogacar keeping the overall lead.

Philipsen was perfectly led out by his Alpecin-Deceuninck teammates in the last kilometer of the 16th stage leading the peloton to Nimes, and he comfortably won the mass sprint. Once set up by Mathieu van der Poel, Philipsen was just too fast and too powerful for his fellow sprinters, edging Phil Bauhaus and Alexander Kristoff.

It was Philipsen's ninth career stage win at cycling's marquee event.

Girmay, whose lead at the top of classification for the green jersey was cut to 32 points, hit the tarmac within the last 2 kilometers. He got back on his bike and reached the finish line.

With two weeks of intense racing in the legs and a tough final week looming, the peloton was back on the bike following a rest day and took it easy.

In the summer heat of southern France, the pack stayed together on long stretches of flat roads for the 189-kilometer (117 mile) stage.

The race livened up after the intermediate sprint, some 97 kilometers (60 miles) after the start, when Frenchman Thomas Gachignard tried to break away with a solo attack. He built a lead of more than two minutes before the sprinters' teams took care

of the chase and reined him in with 25 kilometers left.

Pogacar, who stamped his authority on the race last weekend in the Pyrenees mountains, kept the yellow jersey with a lead of 3 minutes, 9 seconds over two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard. Third-place Remco Evenepoel is lagging 5:19 off the pace. Riders head to the Alps on Wednesday with a stage to the ski resort of Superdevoluy, featuring three tough climbs in the final 40 kilometers.

Chris Harper of Australia did not start Tuesday's stage. His Jayco Alula team said that Harper "is suffering from COVID symptoms and following medical advice he will return home to rest and recover properly for the next goals."

Harper's withdrawal

marked the latest case of coronavirus at the three-week race, following those of Juan Ayuso a teammate of race leader Tadej Pogacar Tom Pidcock and Maxim Van Gils.

Tour de France organizers

have reintroduced protective measures against the virus, including mandatory mask-wearing for all those who might get in contact with riders and team staff on the race. □



Belgium's Jasper Philipsen celebrates as he crosses the finish line ahead Belgium's Wout van Aert, right, to win the thirteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 165.3 kilometers (102.7 miles) with start in Agen and finish Pau, France, Friday, July 12, 2024.

Associated Press

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Analysis: Tiger Woods is playing all the majors. But for how much longer?

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

TROON, Scotland (AP) — Tiger Woods is playing all four majors for the first time since 2019, which at the start of the year would have been cause for great optimism. The results paint a different picture.

He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut at Augusta National. And then he was gone by the weekend at the PGA Championship and the U.S. Open. He hasn't broken par since a 69 in the second round of the 2022 PGA Championship, and he needed that simply to make the cut.

His performance is starting to raise questions of how much longer he will play how much longer he should play to avoid lasting memories of a great champion slapping it around.

Leave it to Colin Montgomerie to put those thoughts into words found in a Times of London interview ahead of the British Open, when he said at one point, "What the hell is he doing?"

The entirety of what Montgomerie told the Times: "I hope people remember Tiger as Tiger was, the passion and the charismatic aura around him. There is none of that now. At Pinehurst he did not seem to enjoy a single shot and you think, 'What the hell is he doing?' He's coming to Troon and he won't enjoy it there, either." Woods already has enjoyed one aspect of his stay at Royal Troon. That came Tuesday when he was asked about Montgomerie's comments. Woods relishes a chance to push back on criticism, particularly when the source is someone known for never winning a major.

"Well, as a past champion, I'm exempt until I'm 60," Woods said, speaking to

his time at the British Open. "Colin's not. He's not a past champion, so he's not ex-

thing to be said about golfers being able to decide when their time is done.

8-foot par putt away from winning the British Open at Turnberry in 2009. The year

forced to have to carry the ball 320 yards."

Woods always will be linked with Augusta National because of his watershed win at age 21 when he won the 1997 Masters by 12 shots, and it is the major he has won the most times. But for all his power as a younger man, no one hit irons like Woods. The flight of his shots was ideal for the links golf. It still is.

Woods showed up Tuesday wearing shorts, with a black compression sleeve covering his right leg. That was a clear reminder that age isn't as big an issue as health. Woods has been forthright in explaining his dilemma. His body won't allow him to play a full schedule, and when he shows up at the majors, he has to deal with competitive rust.

He could play more and risk not playing where it matters. That's something he will have to sort out. And it was telling that the PGA Tour created an exemption category exclusively for him to play in the \$20 million signature events by adding him to the field he wouldn't be taking a spot away from another player.

How much he plays next year will be worth watching. In the meantime, Woods has been at Royal Troon since Sunday. He has high hopes. Maybe they are unrealistic based on the scores he is positing, but they are his hopes.

"There is a time for all sportsmen to say goodbye, but it's very difficult to tell Tiger it's time to go," Montgomerie said. "Obviously, he still feels he can win. We are more realistic."

The truth is probably somewhere in between. But perhaps Woods still feels he can win because unlike Montgomerie, he has done it before. □



Tiger Woods of the United States answers questions at a press conference ahead of the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Troon golf club in Troon, Scotland, Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Associated Press

empt. So he doesn't get the opportunity to make that decision. I do."

It brought up memories of an Open tradition some 20 years ago. Stewart McDougal was the press officer at the time, and he would ask Open champions who came into the press center to sign the table. At the end of the week, McDougal auctioned off the table for charity.

Montgomerie came in one day, saw all the signatures on the table and reached for pen.

"I'm sorry, Colin," McDougal told him. "It's only for Open champions."

Poor Monty.

The questions are fair enough, but there is some-

And given all that Woods has done in the game, it's probably not the best idea to show him the door no matter what numbers he is posting.

His 82 in the third round of the Masters was his highest in a major. The 78 on the Old Course two years ago in what likely will be his final time at St. Andrews.

He still draws the biggest crowd and generates the loudest buzz. And two numbers worth remembering are four and 15. He had four surgeries on his lower back, the last one to fuse his spine, and two years later he won his 15th major at the Masters. Another number worth noting is 59 the age of Tom Watson when he was an

before, Greg Norman was 53 when he had the 54-hole lead at Royal Birkdale.

Courses for the U.S. majors might be getting too big for the 48-year-old Woods, whose body is held together by hardware. But there is something about links golf that is timeless.

"The older you get, the less you can carry the golf ball," Woods said. "But over here, you can run the golf ball 100 yards if you get the right wind and the right trajectory. ... You can play on the ground. You can burn it on the ground with a 1-iron, 2-iron, 3-wood, whatever."

"I think that's one of the reasons why you see older champions up there on the board because they're not